

ANNEX 17 (ESF17) ANIMAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO GREENWOOD COUNTY'S EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN

Tasked Organization: Greenwood County Treasurer

**Suggested Liaison: City/County Animal Control
Private Sector
Humane Society**

Staff augmentation as directed by the County Manager

I. INTRODUCTION

Animal Emergency Response consists of two components:

A. Animals Emergencies:

1. A serious incident or disaster may adversely affect both the agricultural livestock, poultry or pet industries in the County. Lives of animals may be threatened, as well as the disruption of an evacuation, or the interruption or destruction of the various businesses involving animals.
2. Estimates indicate that more than 60% of households have pets, not counting those who have livestock/horses; it is therefore prudent that animal emergency plans be developed to facilitate, but not disrupt, human emergency response. Past incidents, such as Katrina, have revealed that a large portion of pet owners would not abandon their pets.
3. Natural disasters, as well as man-made disasters, may negatively impact the various animal industries/pet populations. Naturally introduced or intentionally introduced (bioterrorist) disease may threaten the animal, or zoonotic disease may threaten public health as well as animal health.
4. Given the limitation of a county response and recovery capability it is important that a well devised plan be developed that provided to the maximum extent possible be established. Such planning should have as one of its goals the rapid return to economic soundness of the livestock/pet industry, public health protection, as well as the emotional benefit of restoring the human-animal bond of ones pet(s).

B. Plant (Crop) Emergencies

1. An emergency or disaster may adversely affect the agricultural plant/crop industry in Greenwood County.
2. Substantial damage to plants/crops would have significant and long-lasting negative impacts on the County's economy through disruption of food supply, trade, and tourism.

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3. Natural disasters, as well as man-made disasters, may negatively impact crops. Naturally introduced or intentionally introduced (bioterrorist) disease may threaten plants and agriculture, and agricultural disease may threaten public health as well as plant health.
4. Efficient response and recovery efforts assure rapid return to economic soundness of the agronomic and horticultural crops industry; and public health protection recovery process.
5. Review this annex and the EOP and develop Standard Operation Procedures (SOPs) for each task established by this appendix and the EOP.
6. Annually review the State EOP & Department of Homeland Security Universal Task List and integrate tasks as appropriate.
7. All sections to this annex will be reviewed and determination made as to the necessary actions required to support individuals classified as "special or functional needs". Actions regarding this category of personnel will be contained in the Standard Operations Procedures.

II. MISSION

Provide animal and plant emergency response throughout Greenwood County, before, during, and after an incident or disasters.

III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

- A. Greenwood County Sheriff's Office Animal Control Officer is overall responsible for the coordination of all ESF-17 administrative, management, planning, training, preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery activities.
 1. The Clemson Extension Agent Liaison is tasked to provide necessary expertise in both animal livestock and plant knowledge to assist in an response or recovery. This also includes developing, coordinating, and maintaining ESF-17 Standard Operating Procedures.
 2. All ESF-17 Suggested Liaison Staffing are asked to assist the Animal Control Officer in the planning and execution this plan.
 3. All ESF-17 personnel will be trained on the principles of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and integrate those principles into all planning and response operations.
- B. Critical ESF 17 functions include, but are not limited to:
 1. Coordinating veterinary medical care, as necessary to protect animal health as a result of a disaster or emergency. Primary focus will be public health issues.

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2. Coordinate backup support services to assist animal owners when necessary in protecting and caring for their animals during and after disaster.
 3. Coordinate with DHEC to insure maintain and prioritize lists of plant and animal pests/diseases of concern in Greenwood County.
 4. Coordinate with all support organizations to encourage them to develop public information programs enabling animal owners and possessors of agricultural resources to develop and carry out their own individual emergency response plans.
 5. Maintain situational awareness on threat of bioterrorist issues and the efforts of homeland defense to include an outbreak of a highly infective exotic animal and/or plant disease, or an economically devastating plant pest infestation.
 6. Plan to coordinate animal and agricultural related data collection during and after emergency response.
- C. Under coordination of the County Animal Control Officer, any volunteer organizations or individuals will be given guidance and procedures for assisting animal owners and agricultural entities throughout the County. Such guidance and procedures will be developed and promulgated by the Regional DHEC Liaison.
- D. In coordination with, and in support of, the County Damage Assessment Team (DAT), ESF-17 will assess the situation (both pre- and post-event) regarding the status of animals (equine, livestock and domesticated). Such information will be available to the county EOC or other agencies as required.
- E. The Animal Control Officer, as the primary coordinating agent for Greenwood County, will gather information from support agencies and other plant and animal related organizations throughout the County concerning their level of preparedness, and level of risk in the face of various emergencies. With appropriate feedback from others, ESF-17 will compile a status report, which will be provided to the EOC.
- F. The Animal Control Officer, in partnership with the Greenwood County Chapter of the Association of Veterinarians, the Greenwood County Chapter of the SC Animal Care and Control Association and the American Red Cross (ARC) will coordinate pet evacuation, sheltering, rescue, medical care and disposition. Necessary memoranda of understanding (MOUs) with the above associations and any other appropriate organizations will be developed and append to this annex. Points of contact for such information are:

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1. Small Animal: Greenwood Veterinary Hosp. (864) 223-6207 Dr. Fred Robertson, Fax: (864) 223-4339, 1630 Hwy. 72/221 East, Greenwood, SC 29649
 2. Large Animal: Dr. Margaret Begemann, Fax: (864) 993-3984, 152 Pioneer Rd., Ninety-Six, SC 29666, (864) 227-9287
- G. The Animal Control Officer, in coordination with Clemson University Cooperative Extension Services (Greenwood County) will oversee equine, livestock and poultry emergency response. He will also develop MOUs with appropriate livestock related organizations such as the South Carolina Horsemen's Council, the SC Cattlemen's Association, etc.
- H. ESF 17 will oversee public health and zoonotic disease issues, including disposal.
1. The coordination of plant/crop emergency response activities is the responsibility of Clemson University Regulatory and Public Service Programs (RPSP).
 2. Coordination of native wildlife emergency response is the responsibility of the SC Department of Natural Resources.
- I. ESF 17 will provide limited assistance, if available, to exotic animal owners in case of emergency. Exotic animal owners are urged to maintain full preparation and response capabilities, as specialty facilities for their animals may not be available through regular support channels.
- J. The EOC will be the point of contact for all requests for plant and animal related assistance. ESF-17 will staff the Animal Emergency Response support function in the EOC, when requested.

IV. ESF ACTIONS

Actions necessary to insure readiness to respond are divided into the four cycles of emergency management. These are: preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation. Each cycle requires actions to be planned for to insure total readiness. Considerations to be planned for are but are not limited to:

- A. Preparedness
1. Develop plans for the protection of animal and plant health and security, including the response to an outbreak of a highly contagious animal/zoonotic disease, an outbreak of a highly infective exotic plant disease or an economically devastating plant pest infestation whether accidentally or intentionally introduced.

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2. Develop plans for the safety of livestock, poultry, companion animals, prior, during and after a natural or manmade event.
3. Develop a training program for county animal and agriculture emergency coordinators and other interested persons.
4. Develop and maintain a list of all county animal and agriculture emergency coordinators.
5. Develop and maintain and regularly update lists or databases of emergency animal shelters and confinement areas for Greenwood County, (including shelter companion, large, zoo and exotic animals) and for other Counties as needed. The database will include personnel and resource information.
6. When feasible, ESF-17 will assist county animal emergency coordinators in identifying suitable facilities for shelters and confinement areas.
7. Develop and maintain a database of medical and non-medical volunteers and facilities that will provide care assistance.
8. Coordinate with ESF-18 for animal and agricultural related donated goods.
9. Participate in County exercises and conduct, at least annually, an ESF-17 exercise to validate this annex and supporting SOPs. Update this plan and SOPs as necessary.
10. Annually review the Department of Homeland Security Universal Task List and integrate new tasks as appropriate.
11. Ensure all ESF-17 personnel integrate NIMS principles in all planning. All ESF personnel will complete all required NIMS training.
12. Implement systems that communicate public health threat of animal, plant and food issues.
13. Provide the Director Emergency Management with suggested staffing needs for the EOC for partial and full activation manning.

B. Response

1. Track the activities of animal shelter facilities and confinement areas identified before, during, and after the disaster. This tracking will be based on information provided by animal emergency coordinator.
2. Coordinate and manage an animal or plant disease outbreak or incident that would affect animal or plant health.

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3. Coordinate Veterinarian Medical Assistance Team (VMAT) and other support group assistance, as necessary.
4. Provide consultation and coordinate response for animal and agricultural issues which impact animal, plant, or public health
5. Provide animal safety through coordination of additional emergency animal sheltering and stabling for both large and small animals, rescue and transportation to shelter.
6. Coordinate triage and follow-up medical care for animals.
7. Coordinate public information through ESF-15.
8. Coordinate the assignment of relief personnel
9. Coordinate with ESF-7 regarding storage sites and staging areas for animal food and medical supplies.
10. Coordinate agricultural response donations in with ESF-18.
11. Coordinate eradication, crop destruction, and animal depopulation operations including support of other ESFs, including ESF-13.
12. Coordinate with ESF-1, ESF-3, and ESF-8 for the removal and proper disposal of contaminated plants, animal waste, and dead animals.
13. Decontaminate, identify and tag dead animals. Properly collect, identify, and label diseased/contaminated plants or plant pests.
14. Organize and manage hay and feed donations for large animals in coordination with ESF-18.

C. Recovery

1. Continue response activities, as required.
2. Coordinate damage assessment regarding the status of animals in Greenwood County.
3. Continue to coordinate the assignment of relief personnel and the distribution of supplies from supply areas or staging areas.
4. Coordinate the consolidation and closing of animal shelters or confinement areas, personnel and supplies as the need diminishes.
5. Coordinate repopulation of animals or reestablishment of plants into recovered area.

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6. Coordinate the phase-down of animal or plant emergency services through various support agencies, and within framework of EOC and ESF guidelines.
7. Organize and publicize lost and found data to achieve animal/owner reunion. Coordinate final return to owner, long-term maintenance, placement or disposition of animals which cannot be returned to their normal habitat or which have been separated from their owners.
8. Continue to coordinate animal medical services, as needed.
9. Continue to coordinate with ESF-1, ESF-3, and ESF-8 for the removal and proper disposal of animal waste and dead animals.
10. ESF-17, with support agencies, will provide a reasonable level of assistance and care for livestock and animals impacted by disaster.
11. Ensure ESF-17 team members or their agencies maintain appropriate records of costs incurred during the event.
12. Ensure donated goods are handled through ESF-18 with appropriate guidance from ESF-17.
13. Coordinate eradication, crop destruction, and animal depopulation operations including support of other ESFs, including ESF-13.

D. Mitigation

1. Support and plan for mitigation measures.
2. Support requests and directives in mitigation and/or re-development activities.
3. Document matters that may be needed for inclusion in briefings, situation reports and action plans.

V. RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Greenwood County Sheriff's Office Animal Control Officer.

1. Preparedness and Mitigation
 - a. Identify, train, and assign personnel to staff ESF-17 in the EOC.
 - b. Develop operating procedures to implement the Animal Emergency Response functions of ESF-17.

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- c. Protect animal health through coordination of animal disease prevention, surveillance (to include tracking animal movement), diagnostics, and eradication consistent with agency mission.
- d. Serve as primary contact in coordinating pet care/sheltering activation in emergencies.
- e. Develop plans to respond to the outbreak of a highly contagious animal/zoonotic disease.
- f. Develop plans for the security of livestock and poultry.
- g. Develop plans for the safety of livestock, poultry and companion animals prior, during and after a natural or man-made event.
- h. Develop plans for ensuring the safety of the distribution of foods and distribution of drugs given to livestock and companion animals.
- i. Participate in meetings to facilitate development of County Animal Response Teams (CART).
- j. Participate in exercises to test operating procedures, and ensure that all support agencies are included in training and testing functions as appropriate.
- k. Coordinate meetings as necessary of the County Animal Response Team (CART), a Countywide committee made up of representatives of involved agencies or organizations, in which members will discuss their operational response and resolve problems, to ensure coverage of animal needs, and to prevent duplication of effort.
- l. Oversee coordination of large animal emergency rescue teams, made up of volunteers to work with county rescue and fire personnel.
- m. Coordinate animal disease prevention, surveillance (to include tracking animal movement), diagnostics, and eradication consistent with agency mission.
- n. Develop plans for the safety and security of livestock and poultry.
- o. Release information annually on disease and disaster planning and safety for animals through news releases, brochures, websites or other means.
- p. Develop and maintain a database on locations and contact information for animal premises, including other premises related or supplying these industries.

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- q. Develop and maintain a database of all county agriculture animal emergency plans and a list of all county agriculture animal emergency coordinators.
- r. Develop and maintain a database of medical and non-medical volunteers and agencies that will provide care assistance.
- s. Develop and maintain a database of all county agriculture animal emergency plans and a list of all county agriculture animal emergency coordinators.

2. Response

- a. Provide staff to EOC, as requested, alerts ESF-17 support departments and/or agencies upon activation.
- b. Coordinate with CART agencies to assess and respond to animal needs in the emergency area, and compile a situation report for the EOC.
- c. Relay and assist individuals with requests for support and assures final disposition of tasks assigned. This may include, but is not limited to, providing emergency transportation, medical care, or shelter and food for animals in need.
- d. Coordinates activities of support agencies, and gathers pertinent statistics and data for compilation.
- e. Coordinate large animal emergency rescue team (LART) activation and assignment. LART element is available through mutual aid from Clemson University.
- f. Coordinate animal disease diagnosis, control, and eradication consistent with agency mission.

3. Recovery

- a. Coordinate the phase-down of animal emergency services through various support departments and/or agencies, and within framework of EOC and ESF guidelines.
- b. Collect appropriate data on animal services rendered, and compile such data for a final report.
- c. Coordinate return to owner or final disposition of unclaimed animals.
- d. Coordinate animal disease diagnosis, control, and eradication.

4. Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service, Greenwood County

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a. Preparedness and Mitigation

- 1) In coordination with the County Animal Control Officer assist in identifying, training , and assignment of personnel to maintain contact with and prepare to conduct operations in support of ESF-17 during periods of activation. Assist in staffing ESF-17 in the EOC with personnel with plant knowledge. Coordinate with State EOC to insure that a Veterinary Liaison Officer is designated for Greenwood County. Officer will participate in developing a county animal emergency response plan through county animal emergency response committee.
- 2) Develop operating procedures to implement the plant emergency response functions of ESF-17, including a contact list of ESF-17 support departments and/or agencies response teams. Coordinate with State ESF 17 on additional contact information at state level.
- 3) Coordinate detection and identification of diseases, pests and invasive species and toxic substances within County, regional and national laboratories.
- 4) Develop plans for the maintenance of plant health and security, including the response to an outbreak of a highly infective exotic plant disease or an economically devastating plant pest.
- 5) Coordinate with Clemson University regarding participation in and/or provide information for Greenwood County Agriculture Response Team (CART), if one is established.
- 6) Participate in meetings to facilitate development of County Agriculture Response Team (CART).
- 7) Participate in exercises to test operating procedures and ensure that all support agencies are included in training and testing functions as appropriate.
- 8) Coordinate meetings as necessary of the County Plant Response Team (CPRT), a Countywide committee composed of representatives of involved agencies or departments or organizations, in which members discuss their operational response, resolve problems and prevent duplication of effort.
- 9) In coordination with ESF-15, Public Information, release information as appropriate with regard to disease and disaster planning and safety of plants/crops.
- 10) Develop and maintain a database of locations and contact information for plant/crop premises, including supporting industries.

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- 11) Oversee coordination of plant containment or eradication teams made up of agency personnel and volunteers.
- 12) Develop plans to respond to the outbreak of a highly contagious animal/zoonotic disease.
- 13) Provide instructional/educational material to veterinary members to assist them in participation with local animal emergency programs.

b. Response

- 1) Provide staff to EOC, as requested, alert ESF-17 support agency responders and notify all ESF-17 supporting departments and/or agencies upon activation.
- 2) Supply personnel for damage assessment teams, or observation teams. Provide laboratory services and analysis for plant disease or pest infestations and for agricultural chemicals.
- 3) Coordinate County Plant Response Team [CPRT] agencies to assess and respond to plant needs in the emergency area and compile situation reports. Coordinate activities of support agencies and gather pertinent statistics and data for compilation.
- 4) Relay and assist in requests for assistance to the proper agency in the EOC and assure final disposition of tasks assigned.
- 5) Coordinate pest and disease containment, eradication or crop destruction activities.
- 6) Develop and maintains public service announcements for rapid release in the case of threat of emergency. Coordinate public service information through Clemson University and the Joint Information Center (JIC) if established or ESF-15 PIO.

c. Recovery

- 1) Coordinate phase-down of plant emergency services through the various support agencies within the framework of the EOC and ESF guidelines.
- 2) Coordinate plant disease/pest diagnosis, control, containment or eradication consistent with the agencies mission.
- 3) Coordinate and collect appropriate data on services rendered and compile data for a final report.

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- 4) Ensure ESF-17 team members maintain appropriate records of costs incurred during the event.
 - 5) Collect morbidity and mortality figures as appropriate.
5. Greenwood County Humane Society, If available, if not these functions will become the responsibility of County Animal Control Officer.
 - a. Identify, train, and assign personnel to maintain contact with and prepare to execute missions in support of ESF-17 during periods of activation.
 - b. Develop operating procedures to assist in the implement Annex-XVII.
 - c. Participate in exercises to test operating procedures.
 - d. Under direction of Greenwood County Animal Control Officer, serve as secondary contact in pet care/sheltering/rescue activation in emergencies.
 - e. Coordinate with appropriate national humane and veterinary organizations to provide broad-based education/training materials to local animal emergency response volunteers.
 - f. Provide public service announcements/information throughout the year to encourage individual owner preparedness prior to emergency.
 - g. Maintain and update the current "List of Pet-Friendly Hotels and Motels" in Greenwood and surrounding counties on an annual basis.
 - h. Maintain list of animal services available in Greenwood County include government and non-profit animal shelters.
 - i. Provide rescue and transportation for pets where necessary.
 - j. Provide volunteer coordination to assist in setting up and staffing emergency animal shelters.
 - k. Assist in phasing down any temporary shelters/holding areas as need diminishes. Provide activity and assessment reports to State ESF-17 as required.
6. Region One Director, SC Department of Health and Environmental Control
 - a. Preparedness and Mitigation
 - 1) Identify, train, and assign liaison personnel to maintain contact with and prepare to execute missions in support of ESF-17 during periods of activation.

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- 2) Provide public health guidelines.

b. Response and Recovery

- 1) Provide consultation and coordinate response on animal issues which impact public or animal health (disease outbreak, bioterrorist attack, and waste and carcass disposal).
- 2) Coordinate public service information with ESF-17 and the Joint Information Center (JIC) for release.
- 3) Ensure team members maintain appropriate records of costs incurred during the event.

7. Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Fresh Water Fisheries

a. Preparedness and Mitigation

- 1) Identify, train, and assign liaison personnel to maintain contact with and prepare to execute missions in support of ESF-17 during periods of activation.
- 2) Develop plans to respond to the outbreak of a highly contagious zoonotic wildlife disease.
- 3) Develop operating procedures to assist in implementing Annex-XVII.
- 4) Develop and coordinate action plans for aquatic invasive species of both national and jurisdictional significance.

b. Response and Recovery

- 1) Provide native wildlife support within agency policy and statutory guidelines.
- 2) Provide consultation and coordinate response on animal issues which impact public or animal health (disease outbreak, bioterrorist attack, and waste and carcass disposal).
- 3) Provide limited assistance, if available, to coordinate zoo/exotic situations.
- 4) Provide transportation and equipment, if available.
- 5) Provide personnel and equipment to implement plans to restore aquatic habitats impacted by invasive species and also conduct animal depopulation operations.

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- 6) Assist in developing and releasing public service information concerning threats to natural resources through ESF-15 and the Joint Information Center (JIC).
- 7) Assist in producing and releasing situation reports covering natural resource areas.
- 8) Ensure team members maintain appropriate records of costs incurred during the event.

VI. STATE/FEDERAL INTERFACE

- A. This response includes the implementation of an integrated federal, state, and local response to an outbreak of a highly contagious animal/zoonotic disease, an outbreak of a highly infective exotic plant disease, or an economically devastating plant pest infestation.
- B. Further, Federal ESF-8 (Public Health and Medical Services) is responsible for agriculture safety and security, and the protection of animal health under the National Response Plan. Agriculture safety and security includes the safety and security of food producing animals, animal feed and therapeutics. Protection of animal health includes ensuring the safety of the manufacture and distribution of foods and drugs given to livestock and companion animals.
- C. State ESF-17 will coordinate with Federal ESF-11 for issues involving animal and plant disease/pest response and Federal ESF-8 concerning agriculture safety and security, and the protection of animal health.
- D. County ESF-17 will coordinate with federal/national organizations to obtain federal assistance when required.